

(e) Rules for refund are already quite simple and passenger friendly. The passenger, who has paid the fare in cash, is granted due refund at the station itself on surrendering the ticket within the prescribed time limits. Thereafter, a Ticket Deposit Receipt is issued to him and this case for refund is examined in the concerned Refund Office.

' Difference over Salem Railway Division

3317. PROF. P.J. KURIEN:

SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry has convened a meeting of Chief Minister's of Tamil Nadu and Kerala to sort out the differences regarding the Salem Railway Division;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether there is demand for creating of a new railway zone comprising the railway lines in the west coast; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reservations have been expressed by Very Important Persons from Kerala over the finalised jurisdiction of Salem Division. To arrive at an amicable solution to the problem, both the Chief Minister of Kerala and Tamil Nadu have been invited for a joint meeting.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Demands have been received for setting up of a new Railway Zone named West Coast Zone with headquarters at Trivandrum or Kochi covering areas of entire Peninsular West Coast of India.

As per the criteria laid down by Railway Reforms Committee and Advisors' Committee, new zones are set up keeping in view factors like

size, workload, accessibility, traffic pattern and other operating/administrative requirements etc. consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency and without any regional considerations.

The proposal when seen in the light of the above criteria has not been found feasible.

Revised fare scheme

3318. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Railways has declared no hike in passengers fare in the budget of 2007-08;
- (b) if so, whether it is also a fact that revised fare sans the telescopic benefit to the sleeper class passengers; and
- (c) if so, whether it is also a fact that this revised fare scheme would increase the fares of sleeper class passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.

Proposal for new rail services

†3319. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of proposals for introducing new railway services are pending with Government;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Government of Rajasthan has also submitted some proposals in this regard;
- (c) the criteria to introduce new rail services; and
- (d) the reasons for not accepting the proposals received from Rajasthan?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.